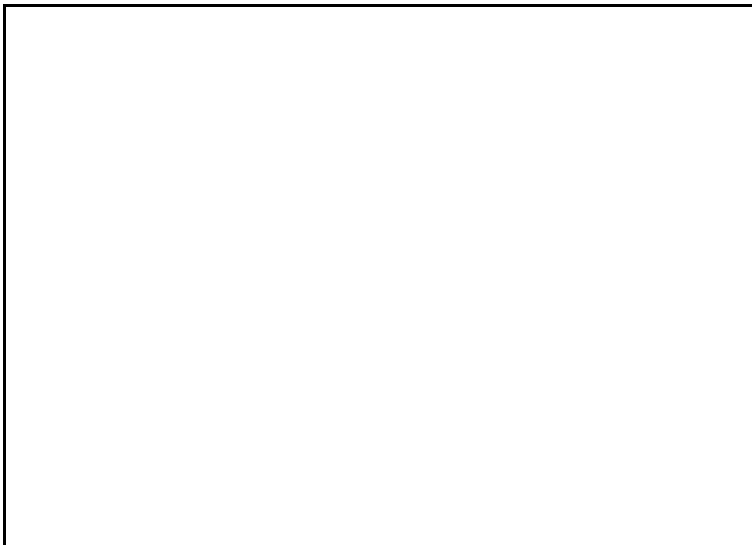


Machine Stress Rated Lumber Producers Council MSR Update

Winter Issue

December 1998

MSRLPC Participates in '98 BCMC Show



The MSRLPC again provided a booth at WTCA's 1998 Building Component Manufacturers Conference, October 14-16. Over 1900 people attended the show, with approximately 400 truss manufacturing companies turning out for the event.

This was an excellent opportunity to generate membership leads. MSRLPC participants at the show were excited about the turnout and the future opportunities. The booth looked great!

Pictured: Ed Boehn from Howard Lumber; Mike Casey, from Weldwood of Canada; Kathy James, from MSRLPC; and Garry Conroy from Materiaux Blanchet.

1998 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Apex Roof Truss, Inc.
Wayne Burt
EB Eddy Forest Products Ltd.
David Milton
Ontario Lumber Manufacturers Association

THE BUSINESS OFFICE HAS A NEW ADDRESS:

Attn: Kathy James
PO Box 6402
Helena MT 59604
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W E S T R E S S Q U A L I T Y

President's Message—by Jim Kaake

I am excited about current happenings with the MSR Lumber Producers Council. As you saw on the cover, we were pleased with the opportunities provided at WTCA's Building Component Manufacturers Conference. It is always very worthwhile to attend BCMA and visit with our customers and members.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that we were considering participation in the Wood Solutions Fairs, sponsored by several lumber industry associations. We decided to provide booths at the last two fairs, in Long Beach, California and Phoenix, Arizona. We found this to be an excellent opportunity to reach wood specifiers. We received a lot of good contacts, so participation was definitely worthwhile.

I encourage everyone to mark your 1999 calendar for the Fifth Annual Workshop - in the South this year! It will be at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mtn., GA on April 8-9. Be sure to check out the Workshop agenda on the back page of this newsletter. I'm sure you will agree that it promises to be another useful educational program that will help all of us better face current industry challenges. We will continue to focus on helping our industry develop our products and grow our markets, as well as giving MSRLPC members an excellent opportunity to communicate with peers and customers.

I must tell you that Callaway Gardens is a wonderful get-away resort, so you can spend your "Spring Break" with us — both in business and pleasure. A brochure has been inserted in this newsletter for more information about what Callaway Gardens offers. Your whole family will enjoy this spot! Early April is the peak time for spring flowers.

As always, please feel free to call or email me (jakaake@gapac.com or 404/652-5750) with any feedback about what's happening at MSRLPC, or what you think we should pursue. Thank you for supporting our association!

Last, but not least, I wish all of you a healthy, safe, and prosperous 1999!



Technical Standards Update: Standards Affect MSR Producers—by Ross Theilen

ASTM Task Group nears completion of ASTM Mechanically Graded Lumber Standard

A task group within the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) is nearing completion of a standard that will affect producers of mechanically graded lumber products like Machine Stress Rated (MSR) lumber and Machine Evaluated Lumber (MEL).

The existence of this type of standard improves ease of acceptance of MSR and MEL in building code enforced construction. Why? The consensus process within ASTM ensures that processes used to establish and maintain properties of MSR have been created, reviewed, and continually improved by a cross-section of capable and competent professionals.

Most comparable products, like visually graded lumber, wood I-joists, and other engineered wood products, are all either based on proprietary code acceptance (i.e. National Evaluation Reports) or consensus standards (i.e. ASTM-based standards). Upon completion of this standard, mechanically graded lumber can also be placed in this category.

How will the new standard impact lumber producers? Tension testing of some type has been the biggest item debated. As the standard currently reads, if tension strength is not tested at the time of qualification, some justification must be given to prove adequacy. One exception: if the tension to bending strength ratio is less than 0.45, the grade is exempt from justifying tension strength. *Continued on page three.*

Calendar of Events

January 21-22: ICC Bldg. Performance Committee Meeting, Nashville, TN. Call ICC at 708/799-2307 for more information.

February 18-20: WTCA Board and Committee Meetings, Mesa, AZ. Call WTCA at 608/274-4849 for more information.

March 9: Wood Solutions Fair, Washington, DC. Call the Canadian Wood Council at 613/747-5544 for more information.

March 15-26: Int'l Bldg. Code Hearings for IBC, IFC and IRC drafts, Los Angeles, CA. Call ICC at 708/799-2307 for more information.

March 26-28: Journal of Light Construction Show, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. Call 802/434-4747 for more information.

April 8: Wood Solutions Fair, Orlando, FL. Call CWC for at 613/747-5544 for more information.

April 8-9: MSRLPC Fifth Annual Workshop, Pine Mtn., GA. Call 888/848-5339 for more information.

April 28-30: Southeastern Truss Mfrs. Conference, Savannah, GA. For more information call 888/577-8754.

May 1: WTCA Committee Meetings, Savannah, GA. Contact WTCA at 608/274-4849 for more information.

May 26: Wood Solutions Fair, Cincinnati, OH. Call CWC for at 613/747-5544 for more information.

Current Happenings with MSRLPC



Website Coming February 1999!!

Our Website Mission

We are in the process of developing a web site that will provide information such as:

- Education/Information (What is MSR/How is it made)
- Membership Roster (Names, Addresses, Email)
- Council Information (Board of Directors and Officers List, Note from President, Committee Info., etc.)
- Calendar of Events (MSRLPC events and other industry events of interest)
- Newsletters (Full copy of newsletters recently published)
- MSR Use Information (Production Surveys, Span Tables, etc.)

In the meantime, you may contact the Business Office of the MSR Lumber Producers Council for any of the above information.

New Treasurer

James H. Liem, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Schuck & Sons Construction Company, Inc. - Glendale, AZ, is our new Treasurer.



James has been in his present position since 1979. He was founder and partner in a local CPA firm, Liem, Lawless & Co., Ltd. Prior to this he was Staff Accountant for Arthur Anderson & Co., a national CPA firm working in Los Angeles and Phoenix.

Associations: Member Arizona Society of CPA's and American Institute of CPAs, Phoenix Rotary Club 100, past board member of Finance Committee Chairman of Metropolitan YMCA.

James graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in finance, graduate studies were at the University of Arizona in accounting.

Annual Award

The MSR Board is in the process of establishing an annual award. It was discussed as a "recognition type of award for someone who has promoted MSR or put a great deal of work into the industry."



Additional suggestions included a Hall of Fame and Past Presidents Club. If you have suggestions for setting up an award, contact Craig Steele of Schuck Components at 602/931-3661.

Fifth Annual Workshop April 8-9, 1999 - Pine Mtn. GA



The next MSR workshop (schedule is on page four of this newsletter) will be held at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mtn., GA.

Callaway Gardens is a man-made landscape in a unique natural setting. It's purpose is to provide a wholesome family environment where all may find beauty, relaxation, inspiration and a better understanding of the living world. Championship golf, tennis, fly fishing, gift shops, and restaurants add to the experience.

Make plans now for you and your family to join us.

New Design Values Brochure and Membership Roster

Both of these items are in the works. The goal for both is that their colorful and attractive presentation will provide marketing material that will stand out at trade shows. We'll keep you posted.



Technical Standards Update — continued from page two.

The method for justifying tension values is up to the grading agency. For example, the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB) currently conducts an annual evaluation of tension values for MSR grades by testing product at their laboratory in Pensacola, Florida.

It is important to note that all producing regions may not choose to employ the method used by SPIB, but producers in regions where no tension testing takes place should keep tabs on changes which may occur as a result of this standard.

If you have questions about this standard work, contact me at (501/624-8254), or your local grading agency representative.

Fifth Annual Workshop - April 8-9, 1999

Following is a summary of events for the next MSRLPC Workshop—held in Pine Mtn. GA. Contact us for more information.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

8:00 - 8:15 am

Welcome, Introduction, & Program Overview

8:15 am - 9:15 am

A View of Our Economic Future

Housing Demographics-Impact on Lumber Use

9:15 am - 9:30 am

Coffee Break

9:30 am - 10:30 am

Your Competition-Part I

10:30 am - 10:45 am

Coffee Break

10:45 am - 11:45 am

Your Competition-Part II

Tour Busses leaving at 12:15

Box Lunch Provided

1:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Option 1: Truss Plant Tour

Option 2: Weyerhaeuser Bamesville Tour

Option 3: Plantation Forest Tour

THURSDAY EVENING

5:00 pm

Group Dinner

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

8:00 am - 8:05 am

Morning Coffee and Overview of Day's Events

8:05 am - 8:45 am

Producing MSR/MEL-Overview

8:45 am - 9:00 am

Coffee Break

9:00 am - 10:15 am

Option 1: Production Equipment

Update w/Metriguard

Option 2: Production Equipment

Update w/Newnes

Program 3: Lumber Sales Forum Part I

10:15 am - 10:30 am

Coffee Break

10:30 am - 11:45 am

Option 1: Production Equipment

Update w/Metriguard

Option 2: Production Equipment

Update w/Newnes

Option 3: Lumber Sales Forum Part II

11:45 pm - 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

Our Industry's Future

2:15 pm - 2:30 pm

Session Closing Comments



MSR Lumber Producers Council

Attn: Kathy James

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